

2. (Three Times Amended) A flat information recording/processing device comprising:

a thin fingerprint sensor;

a memory unit configured to store fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor as registered fingerprint data;

a fingerprint matching unit configured to compare newly detected fingerprint data with the registered fingerprint data stored in the memory unit; and

an exposed terminal on a part of a surface of said device, said exposed terminal configured for electrically connecting with an external terminal.

3. (Three Times Amended) A flat information recording/processing device comprising:

a thin fingerprint sensor;

a memory unit configured to store fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor as registered fingerprint data;

an exposed terminal on a part of a surface of said device, said exposed terminal configured for electrically connecting with an external terminal; and

a fingerprint matching unit configured to compare newly detected fingerprint data with the registered fingerprint data stored in the memory and to output a signal indicative of when there is a match of the fingerprints in the comparison to said exposed terminal.

6. (Three Times Amended) An information recording/processing system comprising:

a portable information recording unit comprising a thin fingerprint sensor, a first memory unit configured to store fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor as registered fingerprint data, a second memory unit in which user-specific information is kept, and an exposed terminal configured for connecting with an information processing unit; and

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an information processing unit comprising an external terminal configured to interface with said exposed terminal of said portable information recording unit, a fingerprint matching unit configured to compare newly detected fingerprint data, received at said terminal, with the registered fingerprint data stored in the first memory unit, received at said external terminal, and a display unit configured to display the user-specific information stored in said second memory unit, said information processing unit configured to display the user-specific information in the display unit when there is a match of fingerprints, said information processing unit further comprising a second thin fingerprint sensor and a third memory unit configured to store fingerprint data detected by said second fingerprint sensor as registered fingerprint data.

9. (Three Times Amended) A machine/system control device comprising:

Sub 1
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a fingerprint sensor;

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a fingerprint matching unit configured to compare fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor with pre-registered fingerprint data;

a control mechanism configured to control operation of the machine/system control device in accordance with user-specific information in accordance with a sensed fingerprint, when there is a match of fingerprint data with pre-registered fingerprint data; and

a slot for insertion of an information recording/processing device, said slot comprising an external terminal configured to mate with an exposed terminal of the information recording/processing device, said external terminal being where data is passed to said control device, the data being at least fingerprint data from a user of the information recording/processing device.

10. (Three Times Amended) A machine/system control device comprising:

a fingerprint sensor;

a first memory unit configured to store fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor as registered fingerprint data;

a fingerprint matching unit configured to compare fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor with registered fingerprint data stored in the memory unit;

a control mechanism configured to control operation of the machine/system control device in accordance with user-specific information corresponding to the fingerprint, when there is a match of fingerprint data with the registered fingerprint data; and

a slot for insertion of an information recording/processing, said slot comprising an external terminal configured to mate with an exposed terminal of the information recording/processing device, said external terminal being where data is passed to said control device, the data being at least fingerprint data from a user of the information recording/processing device.

C Sub
18. (Twice Amended) A machine/system control device in accordance with claim 9 in which the user-specific information is fingerprint data from a person who has authority to inspect or rewrite information in the information recording/processing device.

C Sub
22. (Once Amended) A method in accordance with claim 20 and further comprising the step of displaying a verification when the obtained fingerprint of the person matches the fingerprint data read from the information recording/processing device.

C Sub
24. (Once Amended) A method in accordance with claim 20 and further comprising the step of updating information stored in the memory of the information recording/processing device.

C Sub
27. (Twice Amended) A method for identifying an individual comprising the steps of: